

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 EA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01
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R 200908Z JUL 78
FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4528
INFO AMCONSUL HONG KONG
CINCPAC HONOLULU HI
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY PARIS
USLO PEKING
AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE
AMEMBASSY TAIPEI
AMEMBASSY TOKYO

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: CH, JA, UR, PEPR
SUBJECT: SOVIET PRESSURE ON JAPAN ON PFT

1. THE SOVIET PRESS HAS STEPPED UP PRESSURE ON JAPAN NOT TO CONCLUDE A PEACE AND FRIENDSHIP TREATY WITH CHINA. IN A COMMENTATOR'S COLUMN IN PRAVDA ON JULY 19, TOKYO-BASED IGOR LATYSHEV WARNS FLATLY THAT THE CONCLUSION OF A TREATY ON CHINESE TERMS WILL COMPLICATE AND HARM SOVIET-JAPANESE RELATIONS, THAT SUCH A STEP WILL FORCE THE USSR "TO DRAW CERTAIN CONCLUSIONS" AND TO ALTER ITS POLICIES TOWARD JAPAN, AND THAT THE PFT INVOLVES "QUESTIONS OF VITAL IMPORTANCE" FOR SOVIET-JAPANESE RELATIONS AND FOR PEACE IN THE FAR EAST. LATYSHEV, HOWEVER, DOES NOT SPECIFY WHAT STEPS MOSCOW MIGHT TAKE IN RESPONSE
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TO THE CONCLUSION OF THE PFT.

2. IZVESTIYA CORRESPONDENT YU. BANDURA PUBLISHES A LONG ARTICLE ON JULY 17 IN WHICH HE URGES THE JAPANESE TO ASSESS CORRECTLY "THE LESSONS OF HISTORY" AND NOT BE DRAWN "INTO THE ORBIT OF CHINESE ADVENTURIST POLICY" TOWARD THE USSR. BANDURA ARGUES THAT THERE

ARE MANY IN JAPAN WHO OPPOSE THE RAPID CONCLUSION OF
A PFT ON CHINESE TERMS. ON THE OTHER HAND, "NOT
NUMEROUS BUT RATHER INFLUENTIAL FORCES WHO OPENLY
IGNORE BOTH THE OPINION OF THEIR CITIZENS AND THE
NATIONAL INTERESTS OF THEIR COUNTRY" FAVOR THE
SIGNING OF SUCH A TREATY.

3. COMMENT: SUCH PRESSURE ON TOKYO IS NOT
SURPRISING AT THIS TIME, ALTHOUGH THE SOVIETS MAY
IN THE END HAVE SOME DIFFICULTY IN FINDING
SUITABLE AREAS IN WHICH TO ALTER THEIR POLICIES
TOWARD JAPAN ON MORE THAN A SHORT-TERM BASIS. MATLOCK

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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